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November 28, 2018

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Greetings Arkansas School Administrators,

On October 5, 2017, Governor Asa Hutchinson announced that a \$500,000 grant from the Arkansas Department of Higher Education would be provided to the University of Central Arkansas (UCA) to help pay for a fully functional dedicated cyber range for educational training. A cyber range is a virtual environment that is used to apply cyber and information security concepts and processes in a system that will not negatively affect existing digital infrastructure. This often includes implementation of both offensive and defensive cyberwarfare training.

Over the past year, the cyber range was constructed on the UCA campus by Metova, Inc., a national leader in software and cyber range development. During this same time, UCA began work on developing post-secondary content and ensuring the range is remotely accessible by students to practice. Recently, the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) entered into agreements with Metova and National Integrated Cyber Education Research Center (NICERC) to develop curriculum modules to be used by classroom computer science teachers to teach important cyber security concepts. These modules will be aligned to the Arkansas high-school computer science standards, with many supporting the instruction of Advanced Information Security (465250, 465260), and will be made available at no cost to the schools or teachers.

ADE is looking for schools to use these modules in the spring 2019 semester and provide feedback on the success and desires of the curriculum modules. **Please fill out the Google form at**

**<https://goo.gl/forms/L3V9mmQ6OeREV2N13> if would like to participate or receive additional information.**

ADE is also strongly encouraging superintendents and principals to consider planning to add Advanced Information Security to their computer science course lineup for the 2019-2020 school year which can be directly supported by these modules. Additional information about the Advanced Information Security course can be found at <http://bit.ly/ARCSFacts>.

The ADE Office of Computer Science and its CSforAR specialists team is scheduling Information Security / Cyber Security professional development sessions to support teachers as they prepare to teach this increasingly important area; additional information will be released as it is available.

ADE has established and is building a Cyber Range Project page on its website where ongoing information about the Arkansas Cyber Range, developed modules, professional development offerings, and online learning opportunities related to Information Security will be shared. This page can be accessed from the Computer Science Initiative page or directly at <http://bit.ly/ARCyber>.

Please contact the ADE Office of Computer Science at 501-682-0459 or [CSforAR@arkansas.gov](mailto:CSforAR@arkansas.gov) if you have questions.

Sincerely,

**Anthony A. Owen**

Chief State STEM Officer and State Director of Computer Science Education